

Regular Session, 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR MARIONNEAUX

CONDOLENCES. Expresses condolences upon the death of Marine Corporal David S. Stewart.

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana to the family of United States Marine Corporal David S. Stewart upon his death in ground combat action during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart was a member of Company A, 4<sup>th</sup> Assault Amphibian Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, Marine Forces Reserve operating out of Bogalusa, Louisiana, deployed to the Iraqi Theater of Operations in the United States War on Terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart was a native of Bogalusa and stationed out of Gulfport, Mississippi, and trained tirelessly with his fellow Marines in preparation for their role in this nation's war on terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart was attached to Regimental Combat Team 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) and was engaged in ground combat operations designed to stabilize hostile areas of the combat zone in preparation for the first democratic elections by the Iraqi people since the takeover of the country by the tyrant Saddam Hussein nearly 40 years before; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart and his brothers in arms were in the course and scope of their mission to eliminate terrorist forces determined to prevent the holding of the planned democratic elections scheduled for late in 2005; and

1 WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart and his fellow Marines were in the process of  
2 conducting combat operations south of Haditha, Iraq, on August 3, 2005, when they were  
3 engaged by terrorist forces intent on disrupting any moves toward democratic elections in  
4 the areas surrounding Baghdad, Iraq; and

5 WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart was 24 years old when he and his comrades were  
6 attacked by those terrorist forces with a roadside bomb, mortally wounding him and 13  
7 members of his unit traveling in an amphibious assault vehicle; and

8 WHEREAS, the attack on Corporal Stewart and the Marine forces was of such  
9 intensity and ferocity that six other Marines were killed in the ensuing battle, along with  
10 numerous enemy combatants; and

11 WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart helped lead the counterattack that repelled the enemy  
12 and disrupted their activities in the tactically significant area and ultimately led to the  
13 holding of unprecedented, free elections where chaos, dictatorship, and death had been the  
14 routine for decades; and

15 WHEREAS, United States Marine Corporal David S. Stewart conducted himself in  
16 a courageous manner, bringing great credit to himself, his unit, his country, and certainly his  
17 home state of Louisiana; and

18 WHEREAS, Corporal Stewart's loss to his family, community, unit, and country is  
19 catastrophic, he will forever be remembered for his sacrifice, service, and dedication to his  
20 country.

21 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
22 does hereby extend its deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family of United States  
23 Marine Corps Corporal David S. Stewart for his brave service to his country and the  
24 immeasurable inspiration he provided for his fellow Marines, family, and friends.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the  
26 family of Corporal David S. Stewart as a token of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana  
27 in honor of their sacrifice and loss in the United States War on Terror.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Heyward Jeffers.

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DIGEST

Marionneaux

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